

SORTA Partnership

The Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) Board of Trustees voted to authorize the transit authority to serve as a partner in developing an operating plan for the streetcar system and, ultimately, to serve as the operator of the Cincinnati Streetcar, if an agreement between SORTA and the City for operating the system can be reached.

This partnership's benefits include:

- SORTA operations staff has joined the City's project team and are participating in coordination meetings. As the region's FTA-eligible recipient, SORTA brings its extensive transit expertise to the project to help create an operations plan for the Cincinnati Streetcar that ensures the system's long-term sustainability. Work to date has been focused primarily on refining estimates on the operating costs, first identified in the feasibility study. The most recent estimates reflect an annual operating and maintenance cost of approximately \$3 million, a decrease from the \$3.5 million annual operating cost projected in 2007.
- SORTA and the City can better coordinate streetcar service with existing Metro bus service to maximize the benefit of each. Also, SORTA and the City can coordinate the co-location of stops for each mode of transportation, where appropriate.

SORTA has secured more than \$1 million towards the development of an intermodal transit facility in the Uptown area (the northern terminus of Phase 1 of the streetcar) through the FY10 Transportation Housing and Urban Development Appropriations process that will be incorporated into the planning of the next phase of the streetcar system.